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Lesson 8

Rescued!

Esther 7; 8; *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 602–606

Have you ever wanted to know something and Mom or Dad says, "Wait a minute"? It feels as if you are going to burst with curiosity. That is probably how King Xerxes felt when he came to Esther's second banquet.

King Xerxes and Haman were enjoying Esther's second banquet. But the king was curious. He wanted to know what Esther wanted. And why was she taking so long to tell him?

"Queen Esther," he said, "what is it that you want? You know you may have up to half my kingdom."

"My king, if you truly care for me, please let me live. And let my people live too," she pleaded. "I have been told that we are all to be killed. If we were to be sold as slaves, I would say nothing. But we are to be destroyed."

"What? Who has done this? Where is he?" the king shouted angrily.

"It is Haman, that man," said Esther, pointing at Haman.

Haman stopped eating. He was frightened. He hadn't expected Esther to know. He could tell the king was very angry. The king slammed down his glass and stormed from the room. Haman knew the king would kill him. So he threw himself on Queen Esther to beg for mercy. Just then the king walked back into the room.

"Haman!" he roared. "How dare you attack the queen? Especially while I am still here!"

As soon as the king said the words, the king's servants rushed forward. They covered Haman's face and took him away.



One of the king's servants, Harbona, spoke to the king. "Haman has built a hanging platform in his own yard. He built it for Mordecai, the man who warned you about the plan to kill you."

"Hang Haman on it!" the king ordered.

King Xerxes then gave Queen Esther everything Haman owned. Esther told the king

The Message

God leads us to opportunities to serve Him and His people.

Memory Verse

"Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14, NIV).

that Mordecai was her cousin. She explained how Mordecai had raised her. The king sent for Mordecai. He gave Mordecai the ring that he had taken back from Haman. That ring was a symbol of the power the king gave to Mordecai. Mordecai was now the king's assistant.

Esther wasn't finished with her work yet. She went back into the king's throne room and knelt before him. The king held out his scepter to her again. Esther stood. She begged him to stop Haman's plan.

"Please, my king, help us. Please do something to cancel Haman's orders," she cried.

"I can't cancel that law, because it was sealed with my signet ring," he said. "But I can do something. Have Mordecai tell my secretaries what to write. After they are done, he can seal the orders with the ring I gave him."

Mordecai told the secretaries what to write. The Jews could fight back against anyone who tried to kill them. They could also take the property of anyone who tried. Soon the letters were done and sealed with the king's seal. The king's special messengers rushed to deliver them throughout the land.

The Jews in Susa shouted for joy when they heard the new orders. Everywhere they were delivered, Jewish people celebrated. Some other people even became Jews.

From that day to this, Jews have celebrated the feast of Purim. For two days each year they celebrate. They remember how Esther and Mordecai served God; how they helped save God's people from death.



SABBATH

SHARE Share your lesson story with your family. Then sing some happy songs—the kind of songs the Jews may have sung when they celebrated. Ask your family to share an opportunity they have had to serve God and His people. Who are His people?

PRAY Ask God to help you serve Him every day.

SUNDAY

DO Help your Mom by setting the table today.

MAKE Ask her for an old piece of cloth. Cut it in a rectangle to represent a tablecloth. Write your memory verse on the cloth. Teach the verse to your family during worship.

DO During family worship, see how many Bible stories you can name that are connected with food.

PRAY Thank God for health and strength.

MONDAY

READ During worship today, read Esther 7:9. How high was the gallows Haman built? Can you find something that is a similar height? Measure out that distance on the ground.

DO With your parents, plan a happy surprise to serve someone who is not a close friend. Pray for your plan to serve.

TUESDAY

DO A good way to witness is to share a meal. During family worship, plan to invite someone to a meal. Invite someone who does not know Jesus well. What can you do to help before the visit?

READ Read Esther 5:1–3 and 7:1, 2 together. Look at a map of your country. If Xerxes had been king of your country, how much land would he have offered Esther?

PRAY Pray for the rulers in your country.



WEDNESDAY

READ During worship, read Esther 6:1, 2. Start a family chronicle. Write in it each day for a week.

DO Create a Mordecai award for bravery. Present the Mordecai award to someone you know and explain what it is for. Ask God to bless that person.

THURSDAY

READ During worship, read and discuss Esther 3:10-12 and 8:8. Create a seal for your family. What special features do you want to include? Think of a family motto to go with the seal.

DO Find out about seals and how they were used. How do people use seals today?

PRAY Thank God for your family.

FRIDAY

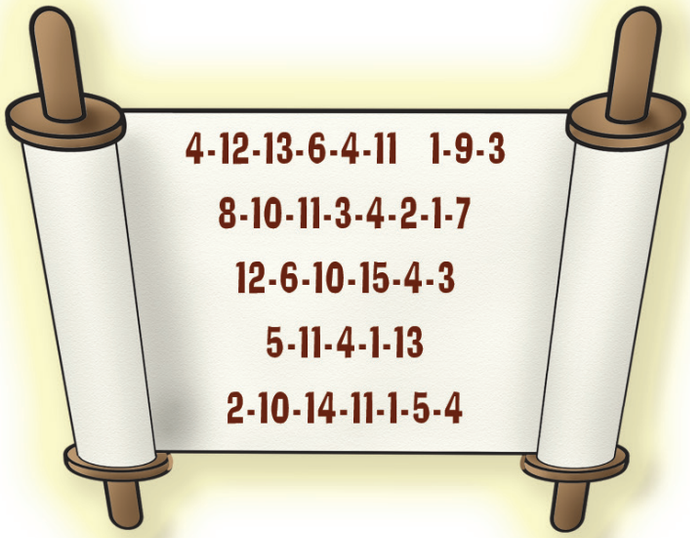
ASK During family worship, review the story of Esther from start to finish. Act out your favorite parts with your family. Ask other family members to name their favorite parts.

DO Say your memory verse together. Tell what it means to you and your family.

SING Before prayer, sing praises to God. Then thank God for the opportunities He gives you every day.

Rescued! PUZZLE

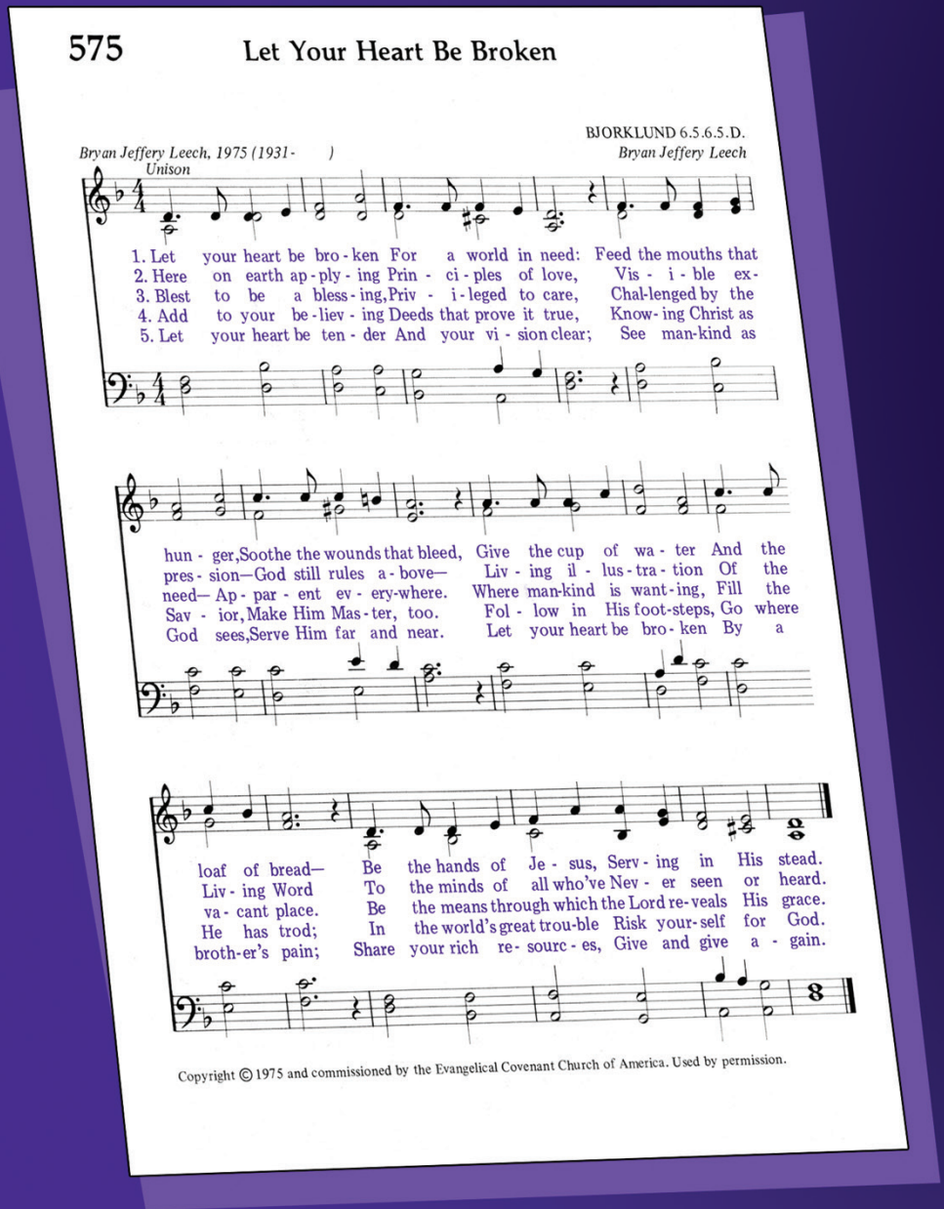
Directions: Use the code to learn about this week's lesson on serving God, authorities, and people.



a	c	d	e	g	h	i	m	n	o	r	s	t	u	w
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

SERVICE

Directions: Read Hymn no. 575, "Let Your Heart Be Broken," from *The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal.* In the boxes provided, draw pictures of ways you can help a world in need. As the song says: "Fill the vacant place. Be the means through which the Lord reveals His grace."



575 Let Your Heart Be Broken

BJORKLUND 6.5.6.5.D.

Bryan Jeffery Leech, 1975 (1931-) — *Bryan Jeffery Leech*

Unison

1. Let your heart be bro - ken For a world in need: Feed the mouths that
2. Here on earth ap - ply - ing Prin - ci - ples of love, Vis - i - ble ex -
3. Blest to be a bless - ing, Priv - i - leged to care, Chal-lenged by the
4. Add to your be - liev - ing Deeds that prove it true, Know - ing Christ as
5. Let your heart be ten - der And your vi - sion clear; See man-kind as

hun - ger, Soothe the wounds that bleed, Give the cup of wa - ter And the
pres - sion—God still rules a - bove— Liv - ing il - lus - tra - tion Of the
need— Ap - par - ent ev - ery-where. Where man-kind is want - ing, Fill the
Sav - ior, Make Him Mas - ter, too. Fol - low in His foot-steps, Go where
God sees, Serve Him far and near. Let your heart be bro - ken By a

loaf of bread— Be the hands of Je - sus, Serv - ing in His stead.
Liv - ing Word To the minds of all who've Nev - er seen or heard.
va - cant place. Be the means through which the Lord re - veals His grace.
He has trod; In the world's great trou - ble Risk your - self for God.
broth - er's pain; Share your rich re - sourc - es, Give and give a - gain.

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Lesson 9

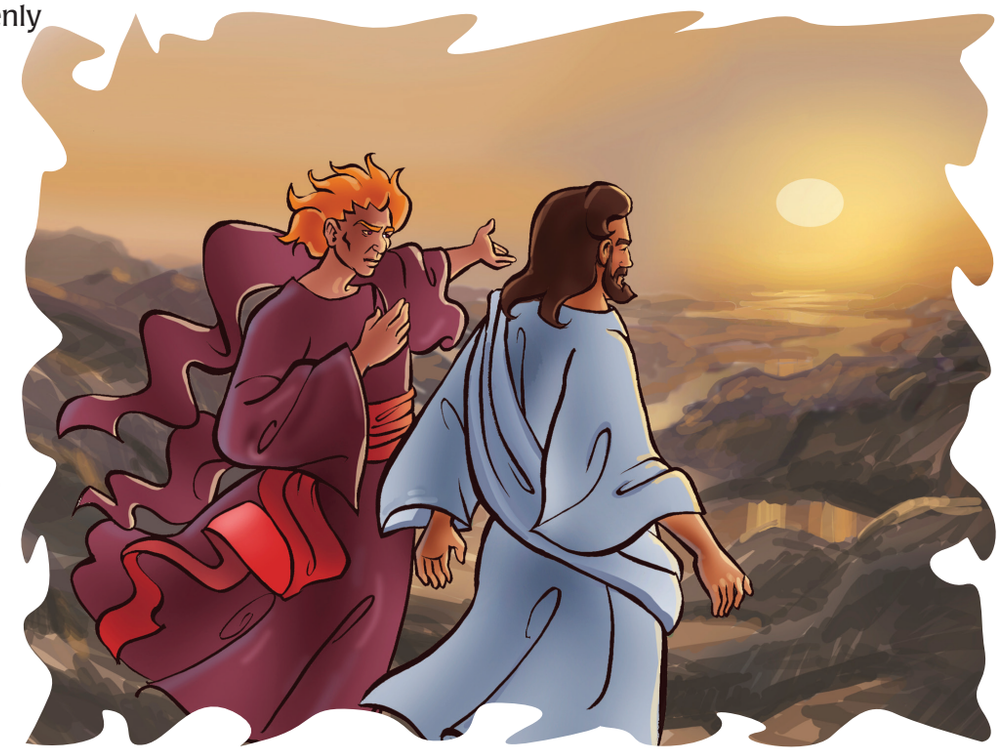
No! No! No!

Matthew 4:1-11; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 114-131

Have you ever been tempted to do something that Mom or Dad have told you not to do? To do something you know is wrong? Satan tempted Jesus, but Jesus said, "No." How was He able to be so strong?

Jesus had just been baptized by John. He needed to be alone. He wanted to pray and think about what He was to do on earth, so He went into the desert. For 40 days He did not eat. He prayed all day, every day. After the 40 days, Satan suddenly appeared.

Satan knew Jesus was hungry and weak. So he said to Jesus, "If You are really God's Son, turn some of these rocks into bread." Satan knew Jesus was God's Son. God had just called Jesus His beloved Son at Jesus' baptism. If Jesus did this miracle, He would be showing that He doubted God's word. Furthermore, Satan knew that Jesus would never do miracles to help Himself. He would only help others.



Jesus had learned the Scriptures from His mother and at the synagogue His family attended. When Satan said, "Turn some rocks into bread," Jesus thought about the things He had learned.

"People don't live just by eating," He replied, "but by the words that come from God." God had said that Jesus was God's Son, so He did not need to prove it. Jesus wanted Satan to know that to obey and trust God was more important than food at the moment. Jesus knew He could depend on God to provide food for Him at the right time.

Then Satan led Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem. Satan took Jesus to one of the highest places on the temple. It was probably the place where the priests stood to blow the horn to call the people to worship.

"If You are God's Son," sneered Satan, "jump off. The Scriptures say, 'Your Father will send angels to rescue you. They'll catch you and keep you from crashing onto the rocks.'" That was true. God had promised that angels would

The Message

When I have God's Word in my heart, I can say no to Satan.

Memory Verse

"I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11, NIV).

keep His people from crashing onto the rocks. But Jesus knew He shouldn't purposely put Himself in danger, and He did not want to use the power God gave Him to save Himself, so he knew He wouldn't jump.

"The Scriptures also say, 'Do not challenge the Lord,'" Jesus replied.

Satan tried one more thing. He took Jesus to a high mountain. There he showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. "Bow down and worship me," he demanded, "and all this can be Yours." Satan was lying. He couldn't promise the world to Jesus. It didn't belong to him! The world and everything in it belongs to God. Satan knew if Jesus bowed down to him, He could not save the world. Everyone would be lost forever.



"Get away from Me, Satan!" Jesus commanded. "The Scriptures say, 'You must worship and serve only God.'"

Satan left Jesus then. He knew Jesus would never worship anyone but His Father.

After Satan left, angels came to be with Jesus. They comforted Him. They gave Him food and water.

How did Jesus resist Satan's temptations? He read the Scriptures and thought about them. He went to the synagogue every week. He participated in worship services. And He prayed. You can read one of His prayers in John 17. Worshipping God gave Him strength. You too can gain strength as you worship God.

SABBATH

DO Jesus spent 40 days in the wilderness. If possible, go for a walk with your family and compare what you see with what it would be like in a wilderness. Collect some rocks and show them as you read your lesson together.

DO Count 40 days on the calendar. How many weeks was Jesus in the wilderness?

PRAY Thank Jesus for resisting Satan's temptations.

SUNDAY

READ Read or say the memory verse. Draw an open Bible. Write the words of the memory verse across the pages.

DO Cut up your picture to make a puzzle. Ask your family to put the puzzle together during worship. Continue with the puzzle until they can say the verse.

PRAY Ask God to help you say no to Satan's temptations.

MONDAY

READ During family worship, read Matthew 4:1-3. Where did Jesus go? Why?

DO Look on a map and find the desert nearest your home. Jesus probably was in the desert near Mount Nebo. Look for Mount Nebo on a Bible map.

DO If possible, help make some bread. As you smell the bread baking, think what it is like to be really hungry. Pray for those who do not have enough to eat. How can you help them?

TUESDAY

READ Read Matthew 4:5-7 for family worship today. Where was Jesus' second temptation? Find Jerusalem on a Bible map.

DO Use old magazines and newspapers to make a collage of tall buildings and food. In the middle write **NO** in big letters to remind you that Jesus resisted temptation.

DO What is the highest building in your town? Visit a high place where you can look down to see your town.

PRAY Thank Jesus for Bible promises.

WEDNESDAY

READ During family worship, read and discuss Ephesians 6:10-17.

DO Using things around the house, try to make a set of armor. Show your armor at family worship and talk about what each piece means.

PRAY Pray that all your family will put on God's special armor.



THURSDAY

DO Ask your family: Which text holds the solution for each of the following problems? See Ephesians 6:1; Exodus 20:15; Ephesians 4:32.

1. John is tempted to be mean to his little brother.
2. Sheila would rather play than help her mom.
3. George is tempted to steal a toy in the store.

READ During family worship, read Matthew 4:8-10. Satan tempted Jesus by showing Him the world. What is the most important thing in your life?

PRAY Ask Jesus to help you put Him before everything else.

FRIDAY

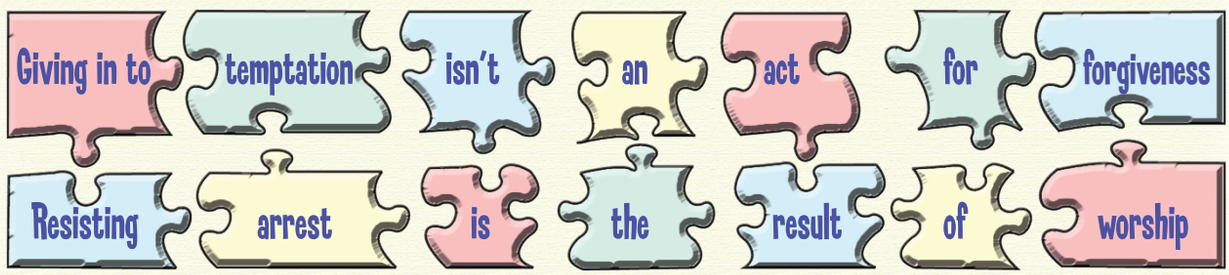
READ Divide your family into two groups and read Matthew 4:1-11 responsively. Think of similar temptations you face. What scripture can you use to resist?

DO Say your memory verse together.

SING Sing a song of praise. Then thank God for His Word, which helps you resist Satan's temptations.

No! No! No! PUZZLE

Directions: Circle the correct word from the top or bottom puzzle piece to explain why Jesus turned down Satan's three offers.



Lesson 10

Time to Pray

Luke 5:12–16; see also Mark 1:35; 14:32–41; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 262–265

How often do you talk to someone you love and who loves you? Once or twice every day? Jesus talked with God every day because He loved God and knew God loved him.

The man called out, "Unclean! Unclean!" It had been a long time since he had noticed the first pale spot. When more spots appeared, he had gone to the priest. And he had heard those awful words: "You have leprosy." He had to leave his family and home. Whenever he came near people, he had to cry "Unclean!"

One day the leper heard that Jesus healed people. He wondered about that. Could Jesus heal him? Maybe Jesus could cure him.

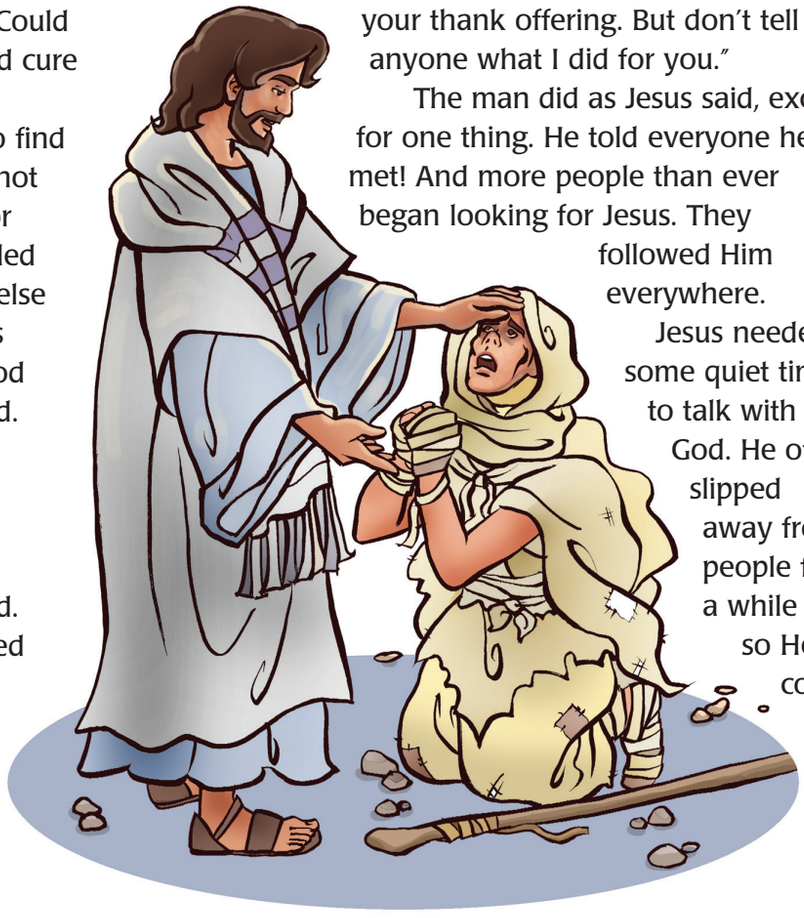
The leper did not know how to find Jesus. But he would try. He could not go near the cities. So he looked for Jesus in the small towns. He traveled on mountain trails where no one else went. Finally the leper found Jesus teaching people by a lake. He stood away from the crowd and watched. He saw Jesus heal people. He listened to Jesus' kind words. His hope became faith! He believed Jesus could help him. So that man began to move closer to the crowd. He forgot that he was not supposed to be near people. He thought only about being healed.

When people saw him, some ran away. Others shouted at him. Others tried to stop him from getting close to Jesus. They did everything but touch him. But the leper had not come this far to give up. He fell to his knees saying, "Lord, I know You can heal me and make me clean if You choose to."

"I will," said Jesus, as He touched the man. "Be healed!"

He touched me! thought the man. *No one has touched me in a long, long time!* He looked at his arm. The white patches had disappeared. All over his body the sores had disappeared. His skin had returned to a normal color, just like that of the people watching him.

"Go now and see the priests," said Jesus. "Let them say you are clean. And give your thank offering. But don't tell anyone what I did for you."



The man did as Jesus said, except for one thing. He told everyone he met! And more people than ever began looking for Jesus. They followed Him everywhere.

Jesus needed some quiet time to talk with God. He often slipped away from people for a while so He could

The Message

I worship God in my daily, quiet prayer time.

Memory Verse

"Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" (Luke 5:16, NIV).

have time to pray; time to talk with His Father. It was hard to talk when people were crowding about Him. So Jesus found quiet places where He would not be disturbed.

Often Jesus would get up when it was still dark to talk to His Father. Or He would pray all night. His favorite quiet place was the Garden of Gethsemane. So many people wanted so much from Him. He knew He needed power and wisdom from God. So He prayed every day. Every day He slipped away from people to have some quiet time with God.

We can get power and wisdom from God too. We need daily prayer time too. When we pray and worship God every day, He is with us.



SABBATH

READ If possible, go with your family to a quiet place outdoors. Read Mark 1:35 together. Imagine that you are in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus often prayed. Discuss and pray about special things your family names.

SING Teach your memory verse to your family and sing a prayer song together.

SUNDAY

READ Read Mark 1:35 by yourself. Find a place where you can be alone to pray. Tell God about your day.

THINK Why do you think Jesus liked to pray in a garden?

PRAY Make a poster that says: "God Answers Prayer." Show it during worship. Ask each family member to tell about an answer to their prayers. Together, thank God for answering prayer.

MONDAY

DO Fold a large piece of paper in half. Trace around your hand, keeping the little finger side on the fold. (Keep your fingers together.) Cut it out (do not cut on the fold). Unfold it, and write your memory verse inside. Put it in your quiet prayer place.

READ During family worship, read Matthew 6:9-13 together. Ask your family to help you write the prayer in your own words.

PRAY Pray the Lord's Prayer together.

TUESDAY

READ During worship today, read and discuss Matthew 6:5-8. When and where do people in your family have secret prayer time? Share answers to prayer.

SING Sing "Whisper a Prayer" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 96); then thank God for answering prayer.

People thought leprosy was caused by a person's sin. So to be healed of leprosy meant to be forgiven of sin as well.



WEDNESDAY

READ Read and discuss Luke 11:9-13 during worship. Name and count good things that God has done for your family. Thank Him for them.

DO Trace around the hands of each person. Cut out the hands and glue all of them on the same paper to make a montage. Above the hands, write "Praying hands worship God."

SING Sing a praise song as a prayer.

THURSDAY

READ During worship, read and discuss Luke 5:12-16. How do you know the leper had faith in Jesus? What was his life like before Jesus healed him? after?

PRAY Ask each person in your family to imagine that because of illness they cannot live with each other. Ask each person to go to a quiet place alone and think about it. When you come back together, each one is to call out "Unclean! Unclean!" Together, ask Jesus to make you clean in every way. Thank Him for hearing your prayers.

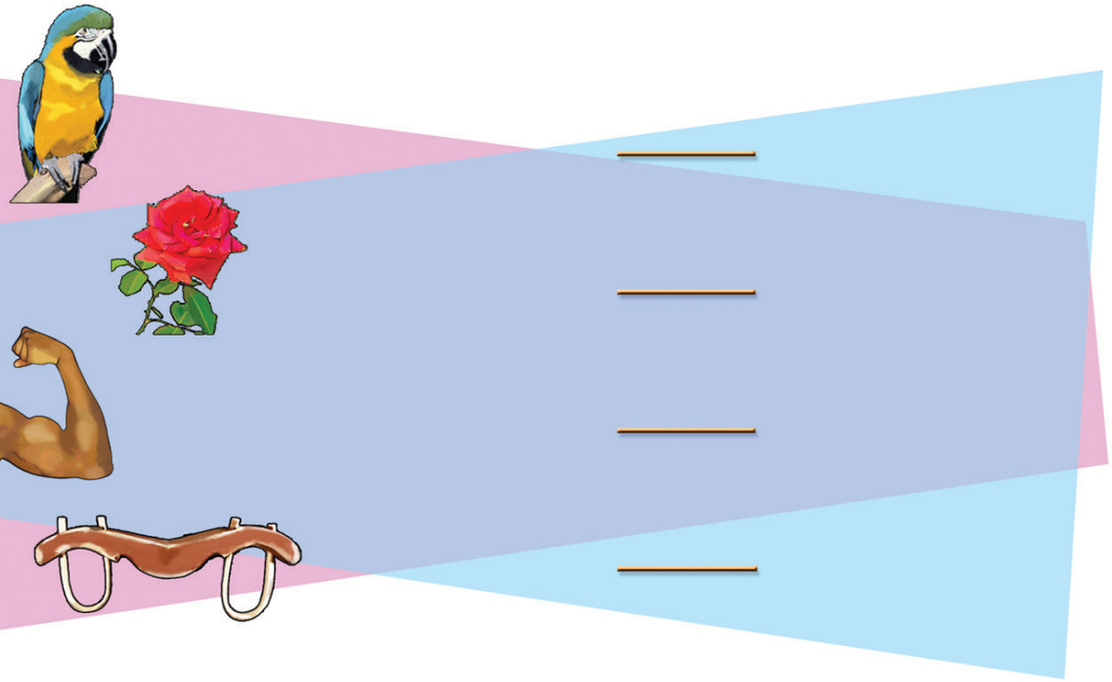
FRIDAY

DO Review this week's lesson and act it out with your family. Ask each person to say the memory verse and tell about a quiet time with God this week.

SING Have each person toss a wadded paper ball to another and name something for which they want to thank God. Sing a praise song before prayer.

Time to Pray PUZZLE

Directions: The first letter of each object should be copied onto the lines provided. The answer will tell you how to keep in touch with God.



Lesson 11

Midnight Song Service

Acts 16:16–40; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 211–220

Have you ever been blamed for something you did not do? Paul and Silas were beaten and put into prison because men told lies about them, but they still praised and worshipped God.

"These men are servants of the Most High God." The slave girl's voice rang out as she followed Paul and Silas down the street. She had been following them for days, shouting over and over, "these men are servants of the Most High God."

Suddenly, Paul turned and commanded, "In the name of Jesus, come out of her!" Immediately the evil spirit left her, and she became silent. Her masters watched in astonishment. Then their astonishment turned to anger as they realized what Paul had done. The slave girl had made them wealthy by telling people's fortunes. Now the evil spirit had left her! She would not be able to tell fortunes! She would no longer earn money for them.

Her owners grabbed Paul and Silas. They dragged them to the marketplace and took them before the local judge. They accused Paul and Silas, saying, "These men are Jews. They are stirring up trouble and encouraging people to go against Roman practices." An unfriendly crowd quickly gathered. Soon the judge ordered that Paul and Silas were to be beaten and thrown into jail.

The jailer took them into his deepest dungeon. He put their feet in stocks and locked the door, leaving them in darkness. It was cold and damp in the cell. Their backs were bleeding and sore. The stocks dug into their ankles. They could not move.



As they sat in the dark cell, Paul and Silas began to pray and sing hymns to God. The more they sang, the better they felt. They forgot about their sore backs and ankles. They worshipped God for keeping them alive. They praised Him for being with them and looking after them, even in prison. The other prisoners listened in amazement. How could these men sing after being so badly beaten?

Around midnight an earthquake began to shake the prison. The prisoners' chains fell off. The cell doors flew open. They could walk out of prison.

The Message

I worship God when I praise Him no matter what happens.

Memory Verse

"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God" (Acts 16:25, NIV).

The jailer ran out of his house. He saw the open prison doors and was sure that all the prisoners had escaped. Immediately he took out his sword to kill himself. He knew the penalty for letting prisoners escape was a painful death. He would rather take his own life!

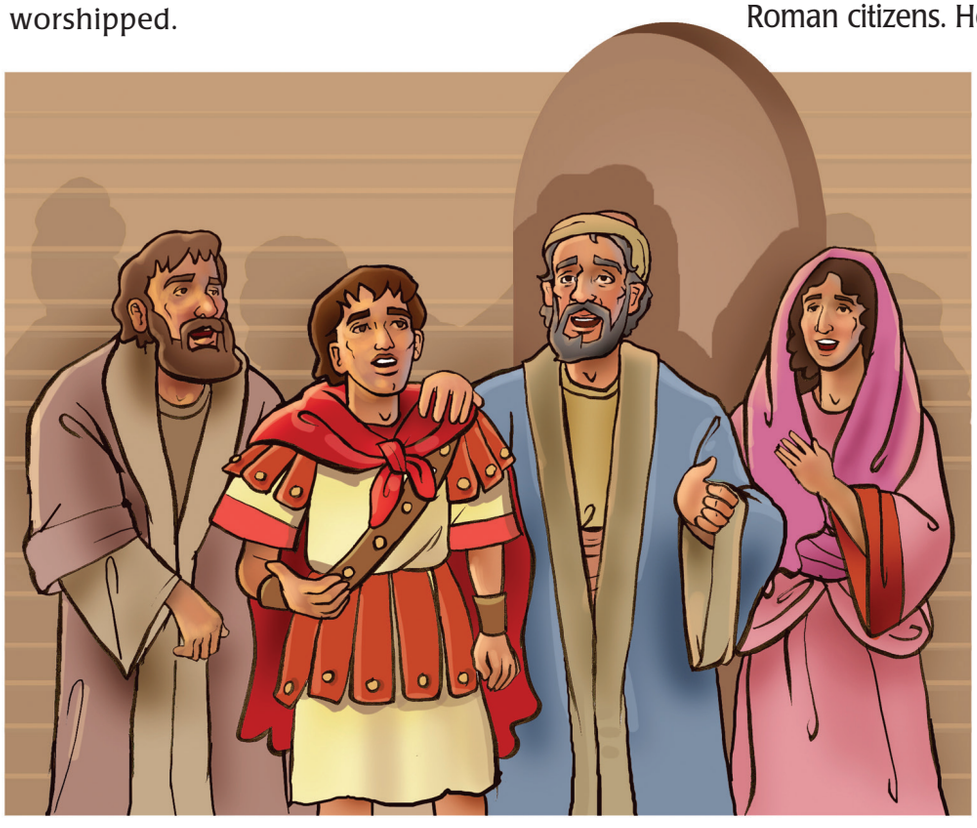
Paul called out to the jailer, "Stop! We are all here!"

The jailer called for lights. He hurried to their cell. "Yes!" he shouted. "They are all here."

The jailer took Paul and Silas to his home. He had heard Paul and Silas singing and worshipping God in their cell. As he washed their cuts and bruises, he asked them to tell him more about the God they worshipped.

The two men told the wonderful story of Jesus. They told how God had sent His Son to die for their sins. The jailer and his family listened carefully. And they decided that they wanted to follow Jesus. They immediately joined with Paul and Silas in worshipping God and were baptized.

The next morning Paul and Silas were released. The judge had learned that they were Roman citizens. He knew that the law said Roman citizens could not be imprisoned without a trial. So he apologized to them.



As Paul and Silas left the town, they worshipped God for giving them the opportunity to witness to the jailer and his family. They continued to praise God as they traveled to tell others about Jesus.

No matter where we are or what happens, we can always praise God too.

SABBATH

DO Share your lesson story with your family. Then have a praise fest. One person chooses a song that everyone knows. Then the next person chooses a song. Keep singing until you cannot think of any more songs. How many songs did you sing?

PRAY Thank God that you can sing praises to Him.

SUNDAY

READ During family worship, read and discuss Acts 16:16–21. (See also *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 213, 214.) What kind of spirit had controlled the girl's mind? What do you think happened to her when that spirit left her?

PRAY Have a tug-of-war with your family. Who is "tugging" at you to get you to do wrong? Pray for strength to do what is right at all times.

MONDAY

READ Read and discuss Acts 16:22–24 during family worship. Describe how the jailer treated Paul and Silas before he believed in Jesus. Have family members sit on the floor with their ankles tied together, then try to stand. What happens? What was it like for Paul and Silas?

PRAY Thank God for freedom to worship Him. Ask Him to bless and encourage those in prison for their faith.

Roman law said that if a prisoner escaped, the jailer had to have the prisoner's punishment.



TUESDAY

READ During family worship, read and discuss Acts 16:25–34. What changed the jailer's treatment of Paul and Silas?

DO Write your memory verse on an adhesive bandage. Put it on your finger or arm to help you remember the verse.

DO Learn how to treat cuts and scratches. Practice on your family.

PRAY Ask God to help you help others.

WEDNESDAY

SHARE Teach your memory verse to your family. What time of day did Paul and Silas sing? When can you praise God?

DO Use a paper plate to create a clock. Instead of numbers, write a word or draw a picture to tell what you do at each hour. How can you worship God in each activity? Explain your clock during family worship. Thank God that you can worship Him anywhere, at any time.

THURSDAY

READ Read and discuss Acts 16:35-39 during family worship today. Why didn't Paul want to leave the prison? Now read Acts 16:20, 21. Why did the magistrates think that Paul and Silas were Jews? What difference did it make in their treatment of the men? What if someone misjudges you? Have you ever been wrong about someone? What did you do about it?

PRAY Pray that God will help you to treat others fairly at all times.

FRIDAY

DO The jailer shared a meal with Paul and Silas. Help prepare and serve your family's evening meal.

READ Read Acts 16:16-40 together, then act out the story with your family. Sing praise songs before prayer. Thank God for freedom to worship Him. Pray for those who don't have that freedom.

Midnight Song Service PUZZLE

Directions: Use the numbers on the clock to find out what Paul and Silas did at midnight.

9	10	1	6	11	3	2

1	7	2

12	8	10	11	5	6	9	3	2

4	8	2		6	7	11	8	7	4



Lesson 12

Bible Detectives

Acts 17:1–14; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 231–233

Would you like to be a Bible detective? To discover new ideas and information? Let's learn about some Bible detectives who searched the Scriptures to see if Paul was right.

Jesus had given Paul a special mission. He called Paul to be an apostle. His work was to tell the story of Jesus, first to the Jews, then to everyone else.

Paul traveled a lot. When he went to a new city, he went to the synagogue first. He would show the Jews from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah. Then Paul would tell them how he became a Christian.

When Paul went to the city of Thessalonica, some of the Jews and a lot of Gentiles believed what he said. Many people became Christians. Some Jews who did not believe were jealous. They wanted to get rid of Paul. But they needed help to do that. The Jewish leaders went to the marketplace, where people who did not have jobs gathered. Here they found some people who liked to make trouble.

Paul and his traveling partner Silas were staying at the home of a man named Jason. The troublemakers, led by the Jewish leaders, went to Jason's house. But Paul and Silas weren't there. So they dragged Jason and some other Christians to court. The Jewish leaders said that Paul and Silas were disobeying Roman law by saying that Jesus was king. They said that Jason should be punished because Paul and Silas were staying with him. The court believed the crowd and forced Jason to pay money. The crowd never did find Paul and Silas. That night the other Christians sent them to a town called Berea.



The Message

I worship God when I study my Bible every day.

Memory Verse

"[The Bereans] received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true" (Acts 17:11, NIV).

As usual, Paul and Silas went directly to the synagogue. The people in Berea, called Bereans, were kinder than the people in Thessalonica. The Bereans listened carefully to what Paul was saying. After they listened, they searched the Scriptures for themselves. They wanted to be sure that what he said was true. After they studied, many believed and became Christians. And after they became Christians, they still studied every day. They did not study because they were curious. They studied because they wanted to learn more about Jesus. Angels stood beside them to help them understand what they were reading.

When some of the Jewish leaders in Thessalonica found out that Paul and Silas were in Berea, they followed them. They found the same kind of troublemakers in Berea and started another riot. But the Berean Christians sent Paul to the city of Athens. There he would be safe.

Silas and Timothy stayed behind to help the Bereans learn more about Jesus. Some of the new Berean believers went with Paul. When they arrived in Athens, Paul sent them back to Berea. He asked them to take a message to his friends. He wanted Timothy and Silas to join him when their work was done.



The Bereans continued to search the Scriptures. They wanted to know more about God. They wanted to learn more about Jesus.

Jesus invites us to study the Bible every day. He wants us to learn more of His Word. As you read the Scriptures, He will help you understand them. Just ask Him. He wants you to know Him better.

SABBATH

DO Share your lesson story and memory verse with your family. Ask: Why did the Bereans study the Scriptures? Ask your family to help you make a Bible study journal. Each day this week, make notes or draw pictures in it as you read the Bible together.

READ Read Psalm 92:1 and 2 together. Then write or draw something in your Bible study journal.

PRAY Thank God for blessing you and your family as you study His Word.

SUNDAY

READ With your family, read and discuss Acts 17:1–4 and verses 10–12. What did Paul and Silas do in these places? Write about it in your Bible study journal.

ASK Ask your family to help you make a poster to advertise Paul's meetings in Berea.

PRAY Pray that God will bless your pastor this week as he or she prepares the sermon for next Sabbath.

MONDAY

DO Before family worship, write your memory verse as small as you can. Make a magnifying glass by putting some water in a clear plastic bag and sealing it. Place your memory verse under it. What happens? Share it and teach your family the memory verse. Write it in your Bible study journal.

SING Sing a song about the Bible, then thank God for it.

TUESDAY

DO During worship today, put three paper cups upside down on a table. Put a coin under one. Move the cups around several times without lifting them up. Ask someone to guess which cup the coin is under. Are they right? Do this 10 times.

READ The Bereans didn't guess what was right. Read and discuss Acts 17:11 together to find out what they did to find truth. How can you know if what you are told about God is right? Write about it in your journal.

PRAY Ask God to help you understand what is right as you study His Word together each day.

WEDNESDAY

READ Read and discuss Psalm 119:11. What does it mean to you? to your family? Write about it in your journal.

SING Sing a praise song, then thank God for His Word.

THURSDAY

READ With your family, read and discuss 2 Timothy 2:15. How many different versions of the Bible are in your home? How can they help you understand God's Word? Read and compare your memory verse in each version.

DO Ask each person to name and explain a favorite Bible text. Why do they like it? Look up their texts in different Bible versions. How are they the same? How is this being a good Bible detective? List the texts in your journal.

PRAY Thank God for His Word.

FRIDAY

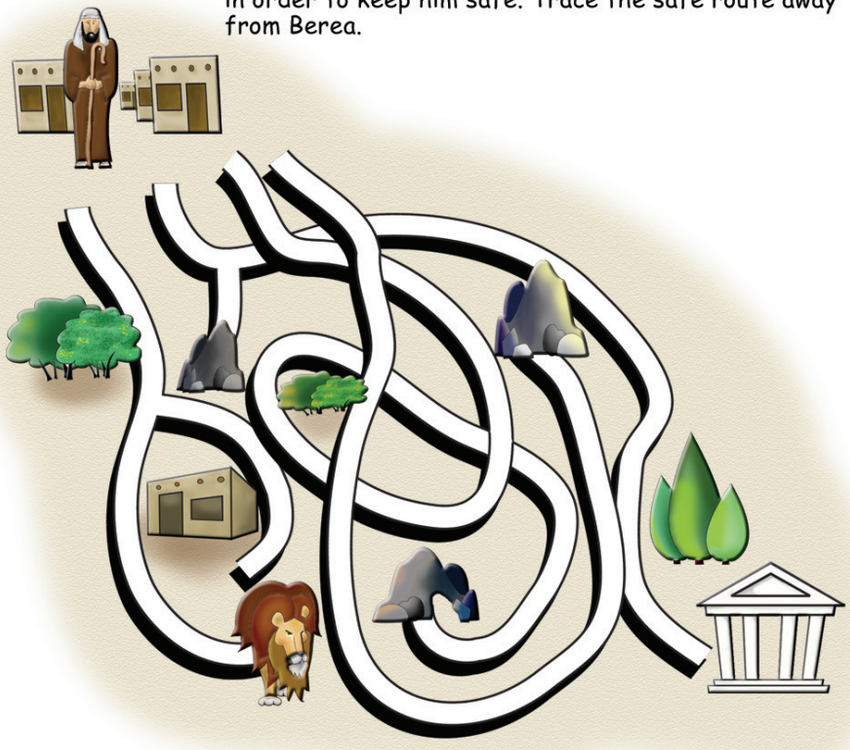
READ Read and discuss Acts 17:1–15 during family worship. What happened in Thessalonica? in Berea? What was the big difference between the Thessalonicans and the Bereans? Would you rather be like the Thessalonicans or the Bereans? Why?

DO Share some things from your Bible study journal. Say your memory verse together. Then thank God that, as Paul did, you can go to church tomorrow.



Bible Detectives PUZZLE

Directions: The Bereans sent Paul away under cover of darkness in order to keep him safe. Trace the safe route away from Berea.



Lesson 13

Final Letter to a Friend

2 Timothy 1; 2; *The Acts of the Apostles*, pp. 203, 498–508

Do you like to hear news from a friend who is far away? Paul missed his friend Timothy, so he wrote a letter asking him to come visit him.

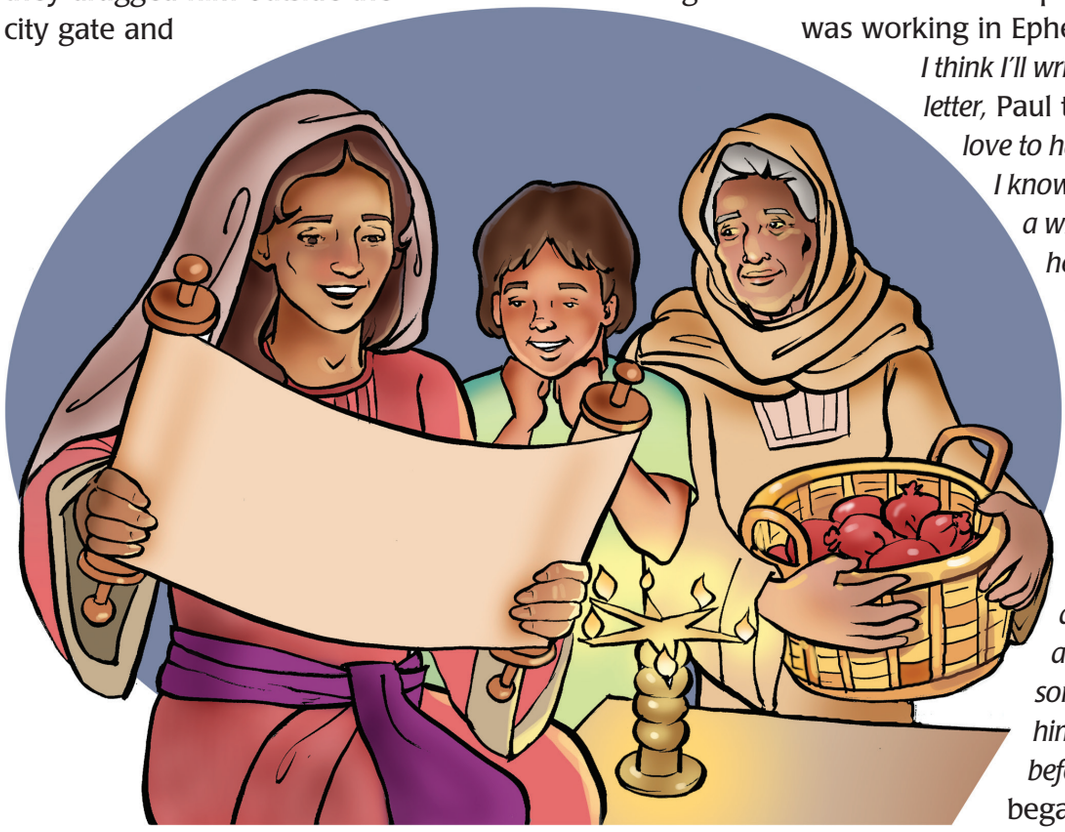
Paul looked around his bare prison cell. It was rough, dimly lit, and not very comfortable. But he smiled as he remembered his dear friend Timothy. They had been through a lot. Their trials and the joy of working together for Jesus had made them good friends. But more than that, they were like father and son.

Paul remembered when they had first met. Paul had gone to Lystra. Some people there did not want him to preach about Jesus. So they dragged him outside the city gate and threw stones at him. That was when he met Timothy.

When Paul went to Lystra again, Timothy was ready to help him. Even though he was still a teenager, he knew the Scriptures.

Timothy's father was Greek. Eunice, his mother, and Lois, his grandmother, were Jewish Christians. They had taught Timothy from the Scriptures since he was a little boy. They had encouraged him to keep his mind and heart pure. It was their guidance that helped Timothy choose to serve God.

Timothy became Paul's assistant. They traveled many miles together, facing many hardships. And their love for Jesus grew and grew. But now Paul was in prison, and Timothy was working in Ephesus.



I think I'll write Timothy a letter, Paul thought. *I would love to have him visit me. I know it will take quite a while for him to get here, even if he comes right away. Why, it will probably be several months before I can see him! And who knows—I could lose my life any day. But I'll write and ask him to come anyway. And I'll leave some instructions for him in case I should die before he comes.* He began to write:

The Message

I worship God when I thank Him for Christian role models.

Memory Verse

"Do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord" (2 Timothy 1:8, NIV).

Dear Timothy,

You have been like a son to me. I wish you grace and peace and mercy from our Lord Jesus Christ. Every day I pray and thank God for you. I am so happy for your faith. And for all you learned from your mother and grandmother. Use that gift of faith. Let it grow into a big fire.

Don't be afraid of anything or anyone. If someone is doing something wrong, tell him. Use the power that God gave you. God gives us strength to tell everyone the good news. Never be ashamed to tell people about Jesus. Preach the gospel every time you have a chance.

Use the Bible as your weapon. Do not listen to what people say; read for yourself what is true. Do not listen to false teachers. Protect other believers from their lies. Teach them everything I have taught you. The Holy Spirit will help you.

Even though I am in prison, keep believing in God. Please come and see me as soon as you can. When you come, please bring my coat and my books. Be careful of the people who have hurt me. They will try to hurt you too. Say hello to our friends.

May the Lord's grace be with you

Paul

Paul's letter to Timothy guided and encouraged him. And it guides and encourages us today.



SABBATH

READ Read and discuss 2 Timothy 1 with your family. Who were Timothy's role models? Of what does Paul say Timothy should not be ashamed? Where was Paul at this time? (See 2 Timothy 1:17.) Where was Timothy? (See 1 Timothy 1:3.)

DO Find Rome and Ephesus on a Bible map. How far apart are they? What would be the quickest route from Ephesus to Rome?

PRAY Pray for people who travel to teach others about Jesus.

SUNDAY

DO Write the memory verse word on each of 11 strips of paper. (Don't forget the reference.) Glue the papers together to make a paper chain. Use the chain to teach the verse to your family during worship. Ask Jesus to give you and your family courage and wisdom to tell others about Him.

MONDAY

READ During worship, read and discuss 2 Timothy 1:8, 16, 17. What does this tell us about Paul's life in prison?

DO Tie your wrist to that of another person. (Use yarn or string.) Stay tied for 30 minutes. How do you feel? How do you think Paul felt about being chained?

PRAY Thank God for freedom to worship Him.

TUESDAY

READ For family worship today, read and discuss 2 Timothy 2:1. What does it mean to grow and be strong in Jesus' grace? Read and discuss 2 Peter 3:18. How does God want us to grow? Ask each person to list things needed to grow physically and to grow spiritually. Then, compare your lists.

PRAY Pray that God will help you grow.

WEDNESDAY

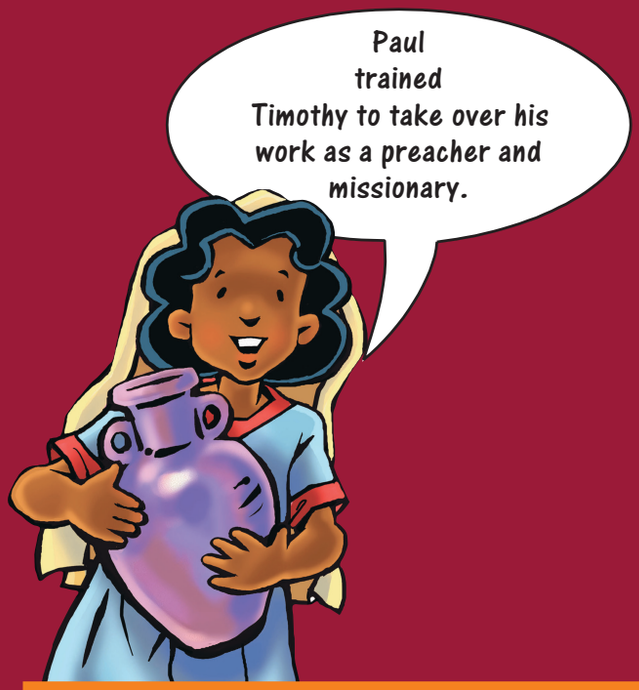
READ With your family, read and discuss 2 Timothy 3:14-17. How can you and your family learn more of the Scriptures?

PRAY Make a people prayer chain by standing in a circle and holding hands. Ask each person to pray for the person on their right. Pray that God will help him or her study and understand the Bible.

THURSDAY

READ During worship, read and discuss 2 Timothy 1:3-5. Ask each family member to draw a circle in the center of a paper and write their name in it. Then draw smaller circles around it and name in each a person who is a positive influence on them. Then write a note to one of those people and thank them.

PRAY Thank God for the positive people in your life.



FRIDAY

DO Ask your family to share a favorite part of Paul's letters to Timothy. Then read a verse that offers instruction. (See 1 Timothy 2:1-3; 6:10, 11; 2 Timothy 1:6, 7; 2 Timothy 2:1-3, 15, 16, 22-24; 2 Timothy 3:14; 2 Timothy 4:1, 2.)

DO Write a family letter to God. Thank Him for Paul and Timothy, and for the Bible, His Word. Ask Him to help you learn from it each day.

Final Letter to a Friend PUZZLE

Directions: Find the following names from this week's lesson:
Timothy, Lois, Eunice, Paul, God, Ephesus, Jesus

A	Z	K	R	Q	E	X
B	C	D	G	E	P	F
T	I	M	O	T	H	Y
G	H	I	D	J	E	K
L	M	N	O	P	S	Q
R	P	J	E	S	U	S
S	A	T	U	U	S	V
W	U	X	N	Y	Z	A
B	L	O	I	S	C	D
E	F	G	C	H	I	J
K	L	M	E	N	O	P

Lesson 14

Too Many Offerings

Exodus 35:4-36:7; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 343-349

Enough! Enough!" laughed Dad. "I have enough on my plate already."

Mother smiled. "What about you, Josh? Do you have enough on your plate?"

Josh grinned. He knew what his mother was thinking. He would eat everything on his plate and ask for more! And she would tease him about eating like a horse!

When is enough enough? A long time ago Moses told the Israelites, "Don't bring any more. We have more than enough." Here's how it may have happened.

Quick," called Father breathlessly as he stuck his head inside the tent. "Moses has an important announcement to make. The entire Israelite community is gathering."

Mother dropped what she was doing and grabbed the baby. Leah was close on her heels, followed by her younger brothers Zibeon and Gershon. The family was quickly joined by other Israelite families, all gathering to hear what Moses had to say.



Soon Moses stood up to speak. The low murmur of the crowd stopped. "God has given me instructions for a tent of meeting," Moses began. "A special place where God will meet with us and where we will worship Him. We will need a lot of fine materials.

"Only those who want to should contribute," continued Moses. "We will need gold, silver, and bronze. We will need yarn in blue, purple, and scarlet. We need fine linen. We need animal skins, acacia wood, olive oil, spices, and gemstones. You should donate only if your heart has been moved by God. Your gifts will be an offering to Him.

"We will also need skilled craftsmen of every kind," continued Moses. "Spinners and weavers to help us prepare the materials. People who

The Message

I worship God with my offerings.

Memory Verse

"I will sacrifice a free-will offering to you; I will praise your name, LORD, for it is good" (Psalm 54:6, NIV).

can work in gold, silver, and bronze. We need people who know how to cut and set stones. Carpenters to work with wood. Spinners to spin goat hair and linen. And weavers to make curtains and the special garments the priests will wear.

"Bezalel of the tribe of Judah and Oholiab of the tribe of Dan will be in charge of the workers and the work," Moses went on. "God's Spirit has filled them with skill and knowledge and the ability to teach others to do this special work."

As soon as Moses stopped talking, a buzz of excitement spread through the crowd. "Mother," Leah began excitedly, "we can help in a lot of ways! You're one of the best spinners and weavers in the whole camp. I'll watch the baby so you can spin."

"And we have a bronze mirror and comb," chimed in Zibeon. "Moses said they need bronze."

"And Leah and Mother have gold jewelry," added Gershon.

"We do have gold earrings and bracelets," agreed Leah. Her best friend in Egypt had given her the bracelets the night they had left.

The next day the family excitedly gathered their items. Together they took them to the place where the building materials were being collected. Piles were beginning to form. Gold jewelry here, silver over there. Bronze bowls and other utensils a little farther on. Animal skins, acacia wood, goat hair, and linen each had their own stack. Excitement filled the air, making it feel like a joyous holiday.

Every day Leah and Zibeon and Gershon walked past the growing piles of materials.

Then one day the builders told Moses, "We don't need any more materials. We have more than enough now." So Moses told the people to stop donating.

The people of Israel had come through. They loved God very much. They wanted to see the tabernacle built too.



SABBATH

DO If the weather is nice, walk with your family and sit outdoors by a nearby church. Read Exodus 35:4–36:7 together. Then, think about your church. What can you give or do to make it a better place to worship God?

SING Sing together "What Joy It Is to Worship Here" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 142). Then, thank God for your church.

DO Teach your memory verse to your family. What is a sacrifice? What is a freewill offering?

SUNDAY

READ During worship, read your lesson story together. What did the Israelites give to help build the sanctuary? Make a list. Then, list things your family could give to make your church a special place for God.

SHARE Show your family your "My Offering for God" bag from Sabbath School. Be sure it's OK to collect things in it.

SING Sing together "God Made Our Hands" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 57). Then thank God for people who support your church.

MONDAY

SHARE In your own words, tell your lesson story to your family. Ask each one to tell about a time they sacrificed something for God. Would they do it again? Why? What is the difference between a freewill offering and a sacrifice offering? Invite each one to put something in your "My Offering for God" bag.

DO Ask the men and boys in your family to say the first part of the memory verse. Then ask the women and girls to say the last part together.

TUESDAY

DO Before worship today, draw a picture to show what it was like when the Israelites brought things for the tabernacle. Show your picture to your family and tell them about it. Keep adding things to your "My Offering for God" bag.

READ Ask someone to read Exodus 35:4 through 36:7. What kind of craftsmen were needed? What kind would be needed to build a church today? What offerings would be needed? Thank God for people who make your church beautiful.

WEDNESDAY

READ For worship read Psalm 54:6 together. Read the first part of verse 7 to find out why David wrote this. From what "troubles" has God delivered your family? Thank Him for His goodness.

SING Sing together "God Is So Good" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 13).

DO Pray a "popcorn" prayer. The leader prays "Thank You, God, for . . . ," then each person adds something for which they are thankful. At the end everyone says, "Thank You, God, for everything."



THURSDAY

READ During worship, read 2 Corinthians 9:7 together. Have someone write the last five words on a big sheet of paper. Ask each person to add a picture to show what they will cheerfully give God this week. The others should guess what it is.

DO Say your memory verse together. Sing a praise song, then, thank God for the leaders in your church.

FRIDAY

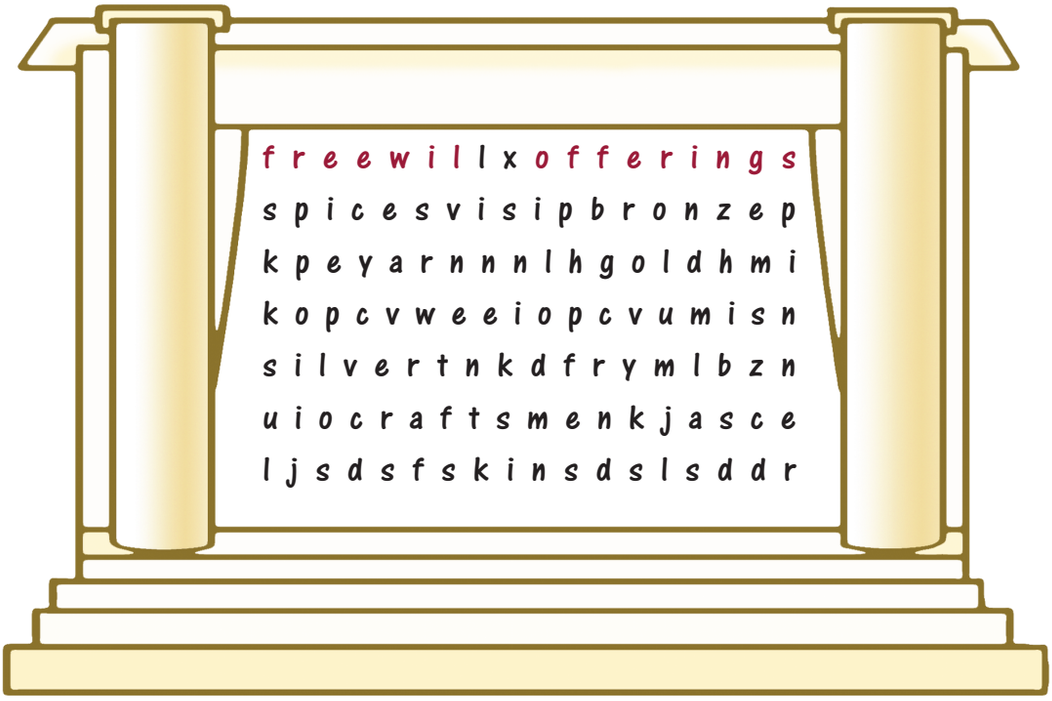
DO Ask your family to help you act out your Bible story for worship today. Who will weave? spin? work with wood? Who will be Moses? What will that person say?

DO Count the items in your "My Offerings for God" bag. How many? What kind of things? Remember to take them to Sabbath School tomorrow. Sing together "The Family of God" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 139).

DO Pray that you will always be willing to give offerings freely.

Worshipful Word Search PUZZLE

Directions: One way we can worship God is to give generously of our time, talents, and possessions. Look for the following that were given in love to build a tabernacle where God could be worshipped. Look up, down, and sideways. Circle the words you find.



WORSHIP

Directions: Read the following Bible verses to find ways to worship God. The first letter of the word or phrase is provided. Then create a banner or poster with the word "worship" on it.



Acts 16:32 W_____



2 Timothy 4:6 O_____



Matthew 4:7 R_____ t_____

Acts 16:25 S___ P_____



Matthew 20:28 H___ s_____



Matthew 5:16 l_____

Luke 5:16 P_____



Answers: Witness, Offering, Resist temptation, Sing praises, Help others, Influence, Prayer

My Memory Verses

1. "I will sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted" (Exodus 15:1, NIV).
2. "[Josiah] did what was right in the eyes of the LORD" (2 Chronicles 34:2, NIV).
3. "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105, NIV).
4. "They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness" (Psalm 145:7, NIV).
5. "Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16, NIV).
6. "People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7, NIV).
7. "In all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:6, NIV).
8. "Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14, NIV).
9. "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (Psalm 119:11, NIV).
10. "Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed" (Luke 5:16, NIV).
11. "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God" (Acts 16:25, NIV).
12. "[The Bereans] received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true" (Acts 17:11, NIV).
13. "Do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord" (2 Timothy 1:8, NIV).
14. "I will sacrifice a freewill offering to you; I will praise your name, LORD, for it is good" (Psalm 54:6, NIV).

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

EPQ230701